

HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q I've heard that my smartphone, as well as my PC, may be under threat from viruses. How serious is the risk, and what can I do to protect myself?

A Smartphones are miniature computers full of personal data, so there's no reason why virus-writers shouldn't try and target smartphones as well as home computers. The threat is currently fairly minimal, but there are still several viruses in the wild and it's fairly certain the number will increase, especially as smartphones become more popular. Currently known viruses include CommWarrior, which deletes all your contacts on the 14th of every month, and Skulls, which replaces all your phone's icons with skulls, making it unusable.

If you're worried about the virus threat, you can install a mobile virus scanner called Umu Scan, which offers real-time protection against virus threats. It costs £20 a year, and you can download a 30-day trial from www.umuglobal.com.

Chris Fynamore
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TOSHIBA Portégé G900

★★★★★

£410 inc VAT SIM-free, £59 inc VAT on £35-per-month contract

Toshiba's Portégé G900 is the first smartphone we've seen since T-Mobile's Vario II to have a full keyboard that slides out sideways from the screen. The keypad adds some bulk and weight to the handset, but it makes typing easy. We find these keyboards much easier to use than the tiny QWERTY thumb pads that have become popular on a lot of handsets.

The G900's keys are raised in the middle and click when you press them, so you know when you've typed a letter. Special characters and punctuation marks are highlighted in green, and aren't especially easy to see in bright daylight. The main problem with the keypad is that the top row of letters is too close to the screen's edge, so you tend to catch your thumbs on it. The slide doesn't lock shut properly, either, so it tends to wobble around a bit when closed.

The G900 has comprehensive email support. You can connect to POP3 or IMAP4 servers, and the phone supports Push email as long as you can connect to a Microsoft Exchange server with Direct Push enabled. The usual Pocket Word and Excel applications are present, which let you view and edit Word and Excel documents, but the handset also has the excellent Pictel Viewer installed. This can view Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDF files, and lets you zoom out to view the whole document, or zoom in to get more detail.

The G900 has a very impressive screen. Most Windows Mobile smartphones have a display resolution of 320x240 pixels, but the G900's has an incredible 800x480 resolution. This is a huge number of pixels for a 3in screen, and it makes text look sharp and clear. It also means that there's plenty of room for a number of tasks

SUMMARY

- ✓ Great screen
- ✓ Good keypad
- ✗ Browser displays pages badly

SMARTPHONE Windows Mobile 6 Professional OS, Tri-band, 3G, HSDPA, 3in 800x480 pixel LCD, 40MB internal storage, mini-SD card slot, USB, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g, 2-megapixel camera, 61x22x119mm, 185g
PART CODE G900-UK1-T
SUPPLIER www.expansys.com
DETAILS www.toshiba-europe.com/mobile



on the home screen. The high resolution should be ideal for web browsing, but this is where the G900 falls down. Even if you set Pocket Internet Explorer to Desktop mode, which is meant to display pages exactly the same as they appear on your PC, the browser makes a mess of the formatting. We had similar results with the third-party Opera browser.

Logging on to a wireless network is easy with the integrated Wireless Manager, but you'll have to enter your mobile data connection settings manually as the phone doesn't pick them up from the SIM card.

The phone has integrated 3G and HSDPA data, so if your network supports it you can surf the web at up to 1.4Mbit/s away from a wireless hotspot. The phone has a front-mounted VGA camera for video calling and a 2-megapixel camera on the rear.

Toshiba's G900 is a competent smartphone with a great screen, but the keypad slide is wobbly and it's let down by the Windows Mobile web browser's poor high-resolution support. We'd recommend T-Mobile's better-built Vario II (see *Labs*, *Shopper* January 2007).

Chris Fynamore

Also consider...

TOMTOM One Regional

★★★★★

£150 inc VAT

BEST BUY TomTom's One Regional is a good-value GPS system

with UK and Ireland maps. It's easy to use, comes with a touch screen and has big icons that you can operate with your finger. Navigation is accurate and the voice prompts are clear. It's the best-value standalone GPS we've seen.



STANDALONE GPS 3.1in 320x240 resolution display, integrated SiRFstar III receiver, TomTom Navigator software, Navteq UK and Ireland maps, 1GB SD card, 174g PART CODE 5N00.110 SUPPLIER www.thenavigationcompany.com DETAILS www.tomtom.com
✓ Fast software; easy to use FULL REVIEW Mar 2007

NOKIA E65

★★★★★

£265 SIM-free, from free on £30-per-month contract

BEST BUY Nokia's E65 is a compact and stylish smartphone with a slide-out keypad

that has large, easy-to-press buttons. It has an excellent screen and a superb web browser that lets you browse pages in their original format, just as you would on a PC. The phone's integrated wireless networking is simple to set up, and the handset supports fast 3G data connections.

The E65 is the best compact internet smartphone around and is great value on a contract.



SMARTPHONE Tri-band GSM, 3G, GPRS, 240x320 resolution LCD, 2-megapixel camera, 52MB internal memory, micro-SD card slot, USB, Bluetooth, IR, 802.11b/g connectivity PART CODE E65 SUPPLIER www.expansys.com (SIM-free), www.three.co.uk, www.o2.co.uk (contract) DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk ✓ Great keypad; easy wireless networking FULL REVIEW Jul 2007

HP

iPAQ 514 Voice Messenger

★★★★★

£187 inc VAT SIM-free, free on
£30-per-month contract



While HP is well known for PDAs and touchscreen PDA smartphones, the iPAQ 514 Voice Messenger is its first compact Windows Mobile smartphone. It runs the Standard Edition of Windows Mobile 6, which is designed for non-touch-screen smartphones.

The iPAQ 514 has an austere black and silver design. The keypad's keys are small but raised in the middle and are fairly easy to use. It has a fairly large 2in screen, but the quality of the screen is one of the phone's weak points. It's bright, but has a low 176x220 pixel resolution. Windows Mobile smoothes the edges of the onscreen fonts, but at this resolution it just makes them blurry and hard to read. There's not as much room on the screen for web pages as on larger Windows Mobile PDA smartphones, but the browser makes a good job of reformatting them and runs smoothly.

The iPAQ 514 makes it easy to get online. The wireless network manager is simple to use. It scans for networks and prompts you to enter a WEP or WPA/WPA2 password. The phone also grabs your GPRS settings from the SIM card, so setting up a mobile data connection takes only a couple of clicks. It's a far cry from the maze of settings you have to enter on most Windows Mobile smartphones. The phone only supports GPRS, not 3G or HSDPA, so you're limited to dial-up networking speeds.

Full-size touchscreen Windows Mobile smartphones let you edit Word and Excel documents, but the iPAQ 514 is rare in being a compact smartphone with built-



in Word and Excel editors. It can view PowerPoint presentations, too, but you'll need a third-party application such as ClearVue PDF to view PDF files.

The iPAQ 514 can connect to POP3 and IMAP4 email servers, and has a built-in database of email settings for common email services such as Gmail. It can also synchronise your contacts, calendar, email and tasks with a Microsoft Exchange server, and supports Push email if the server has the Direct Push service enabled.

One of the iPAQ 514's most interesting features is its Voice Commander program. This lets you use voice commands for common tasks such as dialling contacts, and it will even read out text messages and emails to you. If you want to reply to an email but can't stop and type a message, you can choose to reply with a voice attachment. This records up to 30 seconds of audio and attaches the resulting Wav file to your email reply. The iPAQ 514's screen isn't brilliant, but it's a very good-value smartphone with useful voice-messaging features.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ☒ Excellent value
- ☒ Useful voice-control program
- ☒ Poor screen

SMARTPHONE Windows Mobile 6 Standard Edition operating system, quad-band GSM, GPRS, 2in 176x220 resolution LCD, 65MB internal storage, microSD card slot, USB 1.1, Bluetooth 1.2, 802.11b/g, 1.3-megapixel camera, 49x16x107mm, 102g
PART CODE FA908AT
SUPPLIER www.hp.co.uk (SIM-free); www.expansys.com (contract)
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk

CHOOSING A...
GPS Device

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

MAP COVERAGE: UK and Ireland

SCREEN SIZE: 3½in

POSTCODE SUPPORT: Five characters

TRAFFIC DATA: None

Recommended minimum in grey

1 A GPS system with the minimum specifications listed above will cost you around £150. It's a standalone GPS unit, so you get everything you need in one compact handheld unit. Its screen is not particularly big or clear to see, and it will be quite slow at calculating routes. It has UK and Ireland maps only, so you can't use it in other parts of the world.

If you've got an existing PDA or smartphone, you can buy the software, maps and, if needed, GPS receiver in a kit. This will convert your handheld into a GPS system with similar specifications to those listed above. The cost will be similar, too.

2 To travel further afield than the UK or Ireland, you'll need new maps. These are usually available from the manufacturer at an extra cost. When you buy the maps, make sure you've got a memory card big enough to store them, or enough memory on your PDA or smartphone.

Alternatively, you can save a bit of money by buying a GPS system with a wider choice of maps in the first place.

3 Want quicker route calculation and a better display? Buy a more expensive standalone GPS unit with a quicker processor; a 4in screen or higher with a resolution of 480x272 will give you plenty of space for detailed maps. If you're using a PDA or smartphone and it seems slow, consider upgrading to a newer model with a quicker processor and a screen with a higher resolution.

4 If you travel a lot, a GPS system with real-time traffic information is essential. The most common way to get updates is by connecting to your mobile phone and downloading the latest information. This data is charged at normal network rates, though. Some high-end standalone GPS units have a TMC chip, which receives traffic information over the FM radio network for free.

Several high-end standalone units have integrated microphones and can be used as a hands-free phone over a Bluetooth connection. To take advantage, you'll need a compatible mobile phone with Bluetooth.

ARCHOS
404 Camcorder

★★★★★

£180 inc VAT

PRICE CUT!

Archos's 404 Camcorder is a portable media player (PMP) with a built-in digital video camera. It plays most popular video and audio file types. The interface can be confusing at first, but getting compatible content on to the player is easy using Windows Media Player 10 or 11. The 404 has mediocre battery life and comes without a mains charger, but it's good value.



PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYER 3½in, 320x240-pixel LCD, 30GB hard disk, plays MPEG4, H.264, MPEG2, WMV video (all up to DVD resolution), plays MP3, WMA, Protected WMA, Wav audio, 8 hours' music playback, 2½ hours' video playback, 100x78x15mm, 190g **PART CODE** Archos 404 CAM 30GB
SUPPLIER www.play.com **DETAILS** www.archos.com
☒ Comprehensive file support ☒ Mediocre battery life
FULL REVIEW May 2007

HTC
Touch

★★★★★

£320 SIM-free, free on
£35-per-month contract

HTC's Touch is a tiny Windows Mobile 6 PDA smartphone with a twist. It has a new interface that is designed to be operated entirely with your finger. The TouchFlow interface makes it easy to scroll through contacts and make calls with just your finger, but you still have to use the stylus to type, and it's a shame there's no new keyboard application.

The new interface is not particularly revolutionary, but the Touch is still a gorgeous and good-value Windows Mobile smartphone.



SMARTPHONE Windows Mobile 6 operating system, Tri-band GSM, 240x320 resolution LCD, 25MB internal storage, 1GB microSD card, USB, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g, 2-megapixel camera, 58x14x100mm, 112g **PART CODE** HTC P3450 UK
SUPPLIER www.expansys.com **DETAILS** www.htc.com
☒ Looks great ☒ OS runs slowly **FULL REVIEW** Sep 2007